

# The Spin



## Colorado Safe Routes to School State Network

Volume 1, Issue 1

### Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of "The Spin", a monthly e-newsletter brought to you by the Colorado Safe Routes to School State Network. "The Spin" is designed to facilitate information sharing and connections among communities and organizations interested in increasing the number of Colorado students walking and biking safely to and from school every day. If you have stories, resources or other content you would like to share through "The Spin", please contact [Karen Ryan](#).

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### Stories from Schools

#### Loveland Warms Up for 2012 Walk to School Day

The Loveland Safe Routes to School Task Force is focusing on Walking School Buses for the fifth anniversary of Tires-n-Tennies (T-n-T) Tuesdays. Walking School Buses provide safety in numbers, students are very visible in a group, and these groups are led by adults or older student "drivers". To give families a taste of participating in a Walking School Bus, each of the 9 schools will receive a map with 2-3 routes in celebration of Walk to School Day on October 2, 2012. Volunteers with bright t-shirts will be assigned to each route.

To engage families and gather student travel information, City Public Works Staff attended each participating school's **Back to School Night**. They brought a large aerial map with the school's attendance boundary and 1/4-mile, 1/2-mile, 3/4-mile and 1-mile radius circles drawn onto the map. Students were very intrigued with the map and finding their street, their



house and even some backyard sandboxes, pools and trampolines. Students put a star on their house: red for walkers, skateboarders or scooters; blue for bicycles; silver for busing, carpooling or trip-combining and gold for personal vehicle. The quarter-mile circles were labeled with approximate walk times. These distances and times were intended to demonstrate to the driving parents that their walk to school and back might actually take less time out of their day than arriving early enough to find a parking spot then turnaround and navigate back through school traffic congestion.

## Cruisin' with CDOT

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The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has just announced a call for FY2013 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects. Local agencies who are considering an application should be prepared for a 20% local cash match for funds requested. Due to recent legislation changes at the federal level, CDOT may not be able to fund SRTS projects at 100% federal dollars and would like agencies to be prepared in the event an 80/20 match is required. More information regarding match requirements will be forthcoming as guidance from the Federal Highway Administration is released.

Grant applications for FY2013 SRTS funds will be due Friday December 7, 2012 by 4 p.m. For more information on the CDOT SRTS program, please visit <http://www.coloradodot.info/programs/bikeped/safe-routes>. To view or download the 2013 Infrastructure (capital) and Non-Infrastructure (education) applications, click on the following links:

- [Infrastructure Application](#)
- [Non-Infrastructure Application](#)

## The Federal Crosswalk

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On July 6, 2012 President Obama signed the new federal transportation law known as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). This new law means new challenges and opportunities for bicycling and walking projects. Under the new structure, Safe Routes to School is combined with the former Transportation Enhancements program and Recreational Trails program. Congress also added some new eligible uses, including environmental mitigation and boulevard construction. This new program is called "Transportation Alternatives." The funding level for all these uses combined is approximately \$800 million per year, which is a cut of more than 30 percent from the \$1.2 billion allocated in FY2011 for the three bicycling and walking programs. Additionally, states can opt out of using half of the Transportation Alternatives money.

Colorado has a strong history of supporting bike and pedestrian funding and the Safe Routes to School State Network can play a role in working to ensure our state continues its commitment to these critical programs. However, members of the Network need to speak up and promote fully funding, staffing, and implementing the new Transportation Alternatives program. For more information on how you can advocate for these funds, please visit the [Safe Routes to School National Partnership's website](#).

## Training Wheels and Webinars

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### The Community Connection: School Travel Plans and Building Community Support

On **September 25th, 11:00am MST** join America Walks and the SRTS National Partnership for a webinar on school travel plans, which can provide a road map for schools to build successful walking and biking programs and also strengthen community support for Safe Routes to School. Travel plans include observations and ideas for addressing the five E's of Safe Routes to School - Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Evaluation, and Engineering. In this webinar you will learn about two different approaches to travel planning, starting at the school district level in Ohio contrasted with a small town approach in Vermont. Both cases demonstrate the value of engaging the larger community during the planning process. [Register Now](#).

### Navigating MAP-21: The Safe Routes to School Edition

Building on the Navigating MAP-21 series, this webinar focused specifically on the impact of the new transportation law on Safe Routes to School, and what you can do to ensure that Safe Routes to School survives and thrives in your community and state. [Watch the recording](#).

### SRTS Trainings

CDOT provides train-the-trainer materials and instructions for both [crossing guards](#) and bicycle. For more information contact [Marissa Robinson](#), Colorado Safe Routes to School Program Manager.

Bicycle Colorado, a statewide nonprofit bicycle advocacy organization, partners with schools and local governments to implement Safe Routes to School programs. Bicycle Colorado's education program staff, are invested in encouraging schools, classrooms, and individual students to bike and walk to school – for more information contact [Jenna Berman](#), Education Director.

## Pedaling Programs and Funding Feet

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### Gearing Up for 2012 Walk to School Day

International Walk to School Day is October 3, 2012 - less than a month away! For creative event, strategies for [engaging parents](#), as well as free, online [promotional materials](#), please visit [www.walkbiketoschool.org](http://www.walkbiketoschool.org).

Loveland Safe Routes to School Task Force developed some very creative Walking School Bus themes for the first Tuesday of every month. These themes include:

- Canned Food Drive
- Fluorescent
- Bright or Tie-Died
- Be Safe, Be Smart, Be Seen!
- Love Your Neighborhood Route Clean-Up
- Silly Mitten and Crazy Gloves
- Bed Heads Ahead
- Schools may schedule the mascot, Smart T. Fox, to walk with their group.

Also, if you would like to engage your parents and better understand what might encourage them and their children to walk and/or bike to school, The National Center for Safe Routes to School offers local SRTS programs the ability to use a free, online [Parent Survey](#) to gather parent responses.

### Funding Opportunities

Lowe's [Toolbox for Education](#) grants fund any individual public K-12 school or non-profit parent group associated with that public K-12 school. There is a preference for funding requests that have a permanent impact such as facility enhancement (both indoor and outdoor) as well as landscaping/clean up type projects. Projects that encourage parent involvement and build stronger community spirit will be favored. Grants range from \$2,000 - \$5,000. Deadline is **October 12, 2012**.

[Boettcher Foundation](#) provides funds to assist, encourage, and promote the residents of Colorado through capital improvement projects. The foundation focuses on arts, culture, education and healthcare. Education oriented grant applications are due on **October 12, 2012**.

The [Wal-Mart Foundation](#) has four areas of focus: Education, Workforce Development /

Economic Opportunity, Health and Wellness, and Environmental Sustainability. In the Health and Wellness sectors, eligible applications aim to improve access to health care, reduce health care disparities and promote nutrition. The minimum amount for State Giving Program grants is \$25,000. There is no maximum amount for State Giving Program grants.

## Program Ideas, Logistics and Funding Information

Join the [Safe Routes to School National Partnership's](#) listserv to learn about program implementation, best practices and regional and national news. This listserv was developed to facilitate “real time” discussions. Please spread the word to others! To sign up, send your request to [Kelechi Uzochukwu](#).

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*The purpose of the **Colorado Safe Routes to School State Network** is to facilitate two-way information sharing and connecting among communities and organizations in order to lift up what is working, identify new opportunities and galvanize support for policy and culture change that will increase the number of students walking and biking safely to and from school in every Colorado community.*

[LiveWell Colorado](#) serves as the lead facilitator for the Network. Other members of the Network's steering committee include: [Bicycle Colorado](#), [Children's Hospital Colorado](#), [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#), [Kaiser Permanente](#), [Littleton Public School District](#), and the [Safe Routes to School National Partnership](#). If you are interested in learning more about the network, please contact [Karen Ryan](#).

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